

## IOWA DNR Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (Funding Security Measures)

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, questions about the eligibility of security measures for financial assistance through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) have arisen. This discusses the types of fundable projects that help ensure protection of water facilities.

### What is the DWSRF program?

The DWSRF program lets public water systems (PWS) make infrastructure improvements to protect public health and comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Iowa uses DWSRF to make loans for infrastructure improvements and also reserves a portion to finance other activities that protect sources of drinking water and enhance the technical, financial and managerial capacity of systems. Community public water supplies (PWS) and nonprofit nontransient noncommunity PWS are eligible to receive funds through this program.

Projects eligible for this funding include capital improvements, conservation easements for source water protection, and others. Design and construction costs are eligible for loan assistance once the system has applied for a loan and the project is approved by the IDNR Environmental Protection Commission as part of the annual Intended Use Plan. Contact Jennifer Bunton at 515/725-0298 or Michael Anderson at 515/725-0336 with questions.

### What can water utilities do to ensure security?

Water utilities can take straightforward, common sense measures to increase security and reduce terrorist threats. These include guarding against physical intrusion, making security a priority for employees, coordinating actions for effective emergency response, and investing in security and infrastructure improvements.

### What security measures can be funded through the DWSRF?

Many infrastructure improvements a water system would need to ensure security are eligible for DWSRF funding. The examples below are activities that systems could have funded.

- Fencing
- Security cameras and security lighting
- Motion detectors

- Redundancy (systems and power)
- Secure chemical and fuel storage
- Lab equipment
- Enhanced filtration and disinfection
- Backflow prevention devices
- Installing security hatches on reservoir/tank access panels and vents
- Cross-connection control

### What security measures can't be funded through DWSRF?

Maintaining a human presence can be the most important measure to take to ensure protection. The DWSRF can't fund operations and maintenance activities. Therefore, it can't provide financing for an increased human security presence. Likewise, the DWSRF program can't help a system purchase the chemicals needed to increase disinfection.

### How will projects get funded?

A project that will receive DWSRF funding must go through public review as part of development of an annual Intended Use Plan which lays out how Iowa will implement its DWSRF program over the subsequent year. Security funding is one of IDNR's priorities.

### Examples of scope of projects

A surface water system may determine that it needs to increase the level of filtration to remove potential biological contaminants. This type of project, which may require time for design and planning, will be on a longer timeline than a project needed to install adequate security fencing.

### Where can I find more?

For additional information, you can visit these websites:

- IDNR Security: [www.iowawatersecurity.org](http://www.iowawatersecurity.org)
- IDNR general: [www.iowadnr.com/water](http://www.iowadnr.com/water)
- EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water: [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater)
- EPA Counter-terrorism: [www.epa.gov/ebtpages/ecounterterrorism.html](http://www.epa.gov/ebtpages/ecounterterrorism.html)